

REC'D 26 SEP 2000

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Applicant's or agent's file reference FP10625	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No PCT/AU99/00056	International filing date (day month year) 28 January 1999	Priority Date (day month year) 28 January 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. H04B 10/12, G02B 6/10		
Applicant THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE et al		

1.	This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).
3.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 August 2000	Date of completion of the report 29 August 2000
Name and mailing address of the IPEA AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No: (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer J. LAW Telephone No. (02) 6285 2179

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1 Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-16	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-16	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-16	YES
	Claims	NO

2 Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)Claims 1-16

The invention of the claims is a method of reducing the feedback effects of Rayleigh backscattering in an optical waveguide lasing system whereby portions of the optical waveguide are subjected to low frequency mechanical vibration.

No citation or combination of citations disclose the subjecting of portions of an optical waveguide to low frequency mechanical vibration so as to reduce the feedback effects of Rayleigh backscattering in the waveguide.

The closest art of:

WO 98/27406 A

is directed to a technique of distributed measurement of strain/temperature in an optical waveguide based on the property that the wavelength of backscattered light is dependent upon the strain/temperature of the waveguide at the point at which the light was scattered.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office
 Box PCT
 Washington, D.C. 20231
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day month year) 18 September 2000 (18.09.00)	
International application No. PCT/AU99/00056	Applicant's or agent's file reference FP10625
International filing date (day month year) 28 January 1999 (28.01.99)	Priority date (day month year)
Applicant GAN, Hongbing et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
 18 August 2000 (18.08.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date on, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
 34, chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No. 41 22 740 14 35

Authorized officer

Charlotte ENGER

Telephone No. 41 22 339 83 38

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

international application No.
PCT/AU 99/00056

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER																						
Int Cl ⁶ : H04B 10/12 G02B 6/10																						
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC																						
B. FIELDS SEARCHED																						
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC: H04B G02F, G02B, H01S																						
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched																						
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WPAT																						
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT																						
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.																				
A	WO 98/27406 (KINGS COLLEGE LONDON) 25 June 1998 whole document	1-16																				
A	US 5457532 (AUGUST et al.) whole document	1-16																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex																						
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A"</td> <td>document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T"</td> <td>later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E"</td> <td>earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"X"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L"</td> <td>document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"Y"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O"</td> <td>document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&"</td> <td>document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P"</td> <td>document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family	"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 February 1999		Date of mailing of the international search report 23 FEB 1999																				
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer J. LAW Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2179																				

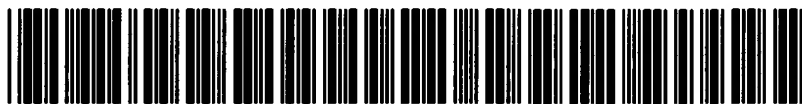
Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/00056

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
WO	9827406	GB	9626099				
US	5457532	EP	763188	JP	10501338	WO	9533183
		US	5559908				



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